

P/3458-2

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

George G. NEWMAN

Date: December 17, 2003

Serial No.: 09/625,420

Group Art Unit: 3626

Filed: July 24, 2000

Examiner: Vanel Frenel

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MATCHING CONSUMER OF HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES TO HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AGENDA FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER**

Sir:

Examiner Frenel requested an agenda for the telephone interview with the Examiner to be held December 23, 2003.

1. **Review of claim 1**

Claim 1 recites as follows:

A system to match a consumer of health care services to a health care service provider over a communications network, the system comprising:  
at least one computer terminal associated with the consumer for allowing the consumer access to the communications network;  
a network server coupled to the communications network, the server comprising a computer program having:  
a service provider data base identifying a plurality of health care service providers and associated health care service products offered by the service providers;  
a first methodology for determining an appropriate treatment based on a diagnosis provided by the consumer or determined by an alternative diagnosis determiner; and  
a second methodology for determining at least one appropriate service provider based on a treatment preference comprising at least one of geographical location of the provider, insurance plan participation, cost, provider experience with the treatment and provider outcome with respect to the treatment.

639746

The claimed invention relates to a system to match a consumer of healthcare services to a healthcare service provider over a communications network. The system includes a first methodology as recited above for determining an appropriate treatment and a second methodology as recited above for determining at least one appropriate service provider based on a treatment as recited above.

2. **Discussion of the Prior Art**

Discussion of the prior art cited and applied to Lavin et al. 5,772,585 and Kraftson et al. 6,151,581.

Lavin et al. relates to a system and method for managing patient medical records. It is a system for managing patient medical records, not a system for 1) determining an appropriate treatment and 2) matching a consumer with a healthcare service provider.

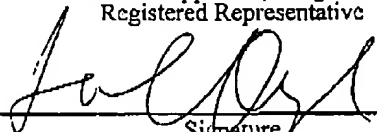
Kraftson et al. is a method for collecting and populating a database with physician/patient data for processing to improve practice quality and healthcare delivery. This system is directed to a system for collecting information from surveys and analyzing the data to improve patient care, health outcomes and the management of physician practices. It also does not teach or suggest 1) a methodology for determining an appropriate treatment and 2) a methodology for determining an appropriate service provider for the consumer. Both references, taken together, fail to teach or suggest the invention claimed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Fernel (703) 746-6065 at the Patent and Trademark Office, on December 17, 2003:

(8)

Louis C. Dujmich

Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

  
Signature

December 17, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Louis C. Dujmich

Registration No.: 30,625

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700